

<sup>28</sup>The difference is in the artist's intent. Celestine Dars has characterized *trompe* paintings as "images of deception," rendered to achieve three-dimensional illusion with an intent to deceive the eye; *Images of deception: the art of trompe-l'oeil* (Oxford, 1979), 7. One needs only to view a number of works in the *genre* to appreciate M. L. d'Otrange Mastai's 'rule' that they *must* have been "conceived with the specific purpose in mind of convincing visual delusion"; *Illusion in art: trompe l'oeil* (New York, 1975), 21, which of course was far from the purpose of the realism attempted by natural history illustrators. Martin Battersby has contrasted *trompe l'oeil* with an artistic tradition which is actually much closer to natural history illustration, that which he has chosen to call "magic realism," the use of "a meticulous finish with every detail delineated with the utmost exactitude, the whole composition being in a ruthlessly sharp focus which, when properly handled, conveys an intensity of feeling penetrating below the surface texture to discover the essence of the model whether human or inanimate" — a technique which has been widely used for the depiction of still life, the human figure, and landscapes. In *trompe l'oeil*, as Battersby suggests, such realism is used as a means of heightening the deception; *Trompe l'oeil: the eye deceived* (London, 1974), 19. In *trompe* painting, images are at least for an instant meant to be visualized as natural objects, precisely so that we reach for the fruit or begin to step through the doorway. Natural history illustration serves a different purpose.

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### Daraba laisalis Walker (Lep.: Pyralidae) in 1983

The following two records are of only the second and third known British *Daraba laisalis*. The first *D. laisalis* known to occur in Britain was taken by E. W. Classey in an m.v. trap at Hampton, Middlesex on the night of 5/6 September 1973, which specimen is in the B.M.(N.H.) Also in the B.M.(N.H.) is a single example of *laisalis* from Spain, taken at S. Pedro Alcantara in September 1968 by the late Mr. D. W. H. ffennell. We are indebted to Mr. M. Shaffer (British Museum (Nat. Hist.)) for the information that the larva feeds on Solanaciae, and for giving its distribution abroad as the Middle East and Africa. — EDITOR.

DARABA LAISALIS IN BEDFORDSHIRE. — During a recent meeting of the BENHS, Mr. Chalmers-Hunt identified a set specimen as this species. This particular moth was taken in a Robinson light trap in my garden here on the 30th July 1983 (fig. 1).

I was fascinated at the time of capture by the posture of this insect. It presented a strange picture indeed with its extremely long front legs and its abdomen curled over towards its head like a scorpion (fig. 2). — K. F. WEBB, 2 Kingsdown Avenue, Luton, Beds LU2 7BU, 14.ii.1984.

DARABA LAISALIS IN SURREY. — I took a good specimen of this attractive pyrale here in my m.v. trap on the night of 18th July 1983. It was kindly determined as this by Dr. K. Sattler (British Museum (Nat. Hist.)). — Sir JOHN DACIE, 10 Alan Road, Wimbledon.